

*Waste Programs Environmental Justice  
Program-Specific Issues*

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## **Federal Facilities**



## Federal Facilities

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## Topic Area: Federal Facilities

### Action Item

*Incorporate environmental justice issues into the Federal Facilities Environmental Dialogue Committee (FFERDC) recommendations for improving decision-making at Federal facilities cleanups.*

### Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office

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The Federal Facilities Environmental Dialogue Committee (FFERDC) is a legally constituted committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The committee, which includes 50 representatives of Federal, state, tribal, and local agencies and of environmental, community, and labor organizations, develops consensus policy recommendations for improving decision-making at Federal facilities. Initiated and coordinated by EPA, the FFERDC is a leading body for involving stakeholders in developing national policy toward the cleanup of Federal facilities.

In January 1995, the FFERDC added five environmental justice representatives from diverse communities including African-Americans, Hispanics, Pacific Islanders, and Alaskan natives. Key issues under consideration by the FFERDC include: ensuring environmental justice concerns are taken into account when prioritizing Federal facility cleanups; including representatives from disadvantaged communities on community advisory boards; and improving minority and small business contracting at Federal facility cleanups. The FFERDC plans to release a final report with recommendations to the Federal government in December 1995.

#### Completed Milestones

- 1/95      Added representatives of environmental justice concerned groups to FFERDC.
- 1/95      Held plenary meeting in San Francisco, California.

#### Contact

Sven-Erik Kaiser, (202) 260-5138

### Action Item

*Provide information on and sensitize Federal agencies to environmental justice concerns related to base closures and other high-priority Federal facility sites.*

### Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office

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#### Restoration Advisory Boards

EPA's environmental justice support to other Federal agencies helps the agencies focus their public outreach efforts to more equitably serve their communities. EPA and the

Department of Defense (DOD) issued joint guidelines on establishing Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs) on September 27, 1994. When environmental restoration is planned for a military installation, RABs provide a framework for partnership among the installation, the regulatory agencies, communities, and other stakeholders to result in a more efficient, cost-effective, and focused approach to the restoration. The guidance directed EPA regional programs to work with their military service counterparts to ensure that input from all stakeholders is considered when decisions related to the cleanup are made, thus increasing the acceptability of government decisions and reducing conflict.

DOD policy requires RABs to be established at all closing installations and at non-closing installations where the local community expresses interest. EPA has assisted in establishing RABs at 69 major closing installations and at many other DOD installations. EPA participates in RAB meetings and ensures that environmental justice issues are addressed. DOD and EPA offered RAB training sessions throughout the country during the summer of 1994. Based on EPA's experience with the Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program, EPA also is helping DOD develop mechanisms for DOD funding of technical assistance to RABs and community groups.

### **Completed Milestones**

- 9/94 EPA and DOD issued joint guidelines on RABs.
- 8/94 DOD and EPA conducted RAB training sessions throughout the country.

### **Contact**

Linda Rutsch, (202) 260-1270

### ***Site-Specific Advisory Boards***

EPA also is working with the Department of Energy (DOE) to establish Site-Specific Advisory Boards (SSAB) at all major DOE facilities. Similar to DOD's RABs, SSABs provide a mechanism for stakeholder involvement in the cleanup decision-making process. SSABs members represent residents that live at or near the site; local government, citizen, and environmental groups; workers involved in or affected by the cleanup; affected Indian Tribes; and Federal and state agencies. DOE issued interim guidance for establishing SSABs in November 1994. Final guidance is under review, and joint signature by EPA and DOE is planned.

### **Completed Milestones**

- 11/94 DOE issued interim guidance.

### **Contact**

Linda Rutsch, (202) 260-1270

### ***Defense Environmental Restoration Response Task Force***

In addition, EPA is a member of the Defense Environmental Response Task Force (DERTF), a Congressionally mandated interagency task force charged with examining the environmental issues associated with the cleanup and reuse of closing military installations. The DERTF established an environmental justice working group in the

summer of 1994. Recommendations from this working group regarding environmental justice at military base closings were included in the DERTF annual report to Congress, issued in January 1995. These recommendations are as follows:

- DOD, EPA, the Department of Justice, and General Services Administration (as appropriate) should ensure that programs among those agencies that involve similar objectives and activities with respect to environmental justice are consolidated or coordinated.
- The Office of the Secretary of Defense should maintain liaison with committees and organizations working on environmental justice and ensure that objectives and processes related to environmental justice are incorporated into all cleanup programs.

### **Completed Milestones**

1/95          Issued DERTF annual report to Congress.

### **Contact**

Linda Rutsch, (202) 260-1270

## **Region 1**

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Region 1 has begun an initiative to collect demographic data and prepare geographic information system (GIS) maps for use when closing bases and other high priority Federal facilities in the Region. These maps provide information on potential environmental justice issues at the facilities and are used by EPA Remedial Project Managers (RPMs), Federal facility RPMs, state RPMs, and facility commanders. This effort will be followed by individual site meetings for those installations with environmental justice issues. Region 1 will provide the base commanders of 15 Federal facilities with methods and strategies to effectively address these issues. On April 7, 1995, Region 1 sent GIS information with a letter of explanation to 15 Federal facilities.

### **Completed Milestones**

1/95          Developed and gained approval of the plan to collect demographic data and prepare GIS maps.

4/95          Sent GIS information with explanatory letters to 15 Federal facilities.

### **Contact**

Patty Marajh-Whittemore, (617) 223-5582

## **Region 2**

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In accordance with DOD policy, RABs have been established at virtually all of its facilities, most notably at base closure sites, but at non-base closure sites also. RAB membership of widely diversified interests and representative of the surrounding communities has been solicited by DOD representatives at its bases. At all National Priority List (NPL) sites and at some non-NPL sites EPA and the states are members of the RAB, in addition to DOD. Other members of RABs may typically include local busi-

ness, labor and environmental groups. Minority and economically depressed group membership is actively solicited, but depending on interest, application, and active participation, groups may or may not be represented on RABs. One such case is at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, where representatives of the St. Regis Mohawk Indians have met separately with Region 2 on several occasions to discuss interests in Plattsburgh Air Force Base.

At the non-NPL former Raritan Arsenal New Jersey site (a DOD-Army-formerly used defense site) EPA Region 2 is a member of the Technical Review Committee (TRC), along with the Army, state, and local businesses and environmental groups. EPA together with the Army and state has worked to help expedite removal actions to foster development for Middlesex County College which now occupies parts of this former army arsenal. In addition, part of the site is occupied by the homeless.

Region 2 continues active participation on RABs and RAB meetings which are held at least quarterly. The Region continues active solicitation of environmental justice groups to participate on RABs and encourages discussions on environmental justice issues at RAB meetings.

### **Completed Milestones**

- 8/94 Initiated removal action at the Raritan Arsenal.
- 12/94 Griffiss Air Force Base RAB met.
- 12/94 Raritan Arsenal TRC met.
- 2/95 Plattsburgh Air Force Base RAB met.
- 3/95 Raritan Arsenal TRC met.

### **Contacts**

Robert Wing, (212) 637-4332 (Federal Facilities)

Robert Morse, (212) 637-3564 (Plattsburgh)

Christine Yost, (212) 637-3564 (Indian Affairs)

Helen Shannon, (212) 637-4324 (Raritan Arsenal)

Douglas Pocze, (212) 637-4432 (Griffiss)

In addition to normal public comment on proposed plans, EPA Region 2 and cognizant Federal facilities, together with states and local public officials, hosted site-specific workshops and public meetings to address specific community concerns. At the DOE Maywood and Wayne, New Jersey, sites, EPA Region 2, DOE, and the state participated in numerous public meetings and workshops to address community concerns regarding radioactively contaminated soil cleanup and risk issues. Region 2 will continue to participate in workshops and public meetings to address a variety of community concerns as needed.

### **Completed Milestones**

- 11/91-3/95 Held public meetings for the Wayne, New Jersey, site.
- 12/90-3/95 Held public meetings held for the Maywood site.



**Contacts**

Robert Wing, (212) 637-4332 (Federal Facilities)

Angela Carpenter, (212) 637-4433 (Wayne and Maywood)

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**Region 3**

Region 3 collected demographic data and prepared GIS maps for each Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) installation and other high priority Federal facilities in the Region. Region 3 sent letters to installation commanders describing the Environmental Justice Executive Order and provided the GIS maps. The Region asked for replies by the end of January 1995. Region 3 held a day-long Federal facility RPM meeting to discuss environmental justice issues. Facility responses to the environmental justice letters were discussed at this meeting. Individual locations and sets of circumstances were selected for further, more focused efforts.

The Region currently is planning a Federal facility training conference, “The 1995 Northeast Federal Facilities Environmental Conference—Compliance and Pollution Prevention Through Improved Partnerships” to be held April 11-13, 1995. The meeting will involve several hundred people. Environmental justice presentations will be included in the agenda.

**Completed Milestones**

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|-------|--|
| 4/94  | Developed and gained approval of plan to collect demographic data and prepare GIS maps.                    |
| 4/94  | Oriented staff to environmental justice.   |
| 7/94  | Prepared GIS maps of BRAC sites.   |
| 8/94  | Analyzed maps, obtained field verification.  |
| 10/94 | Presented Regional environmental justice plan to Federal Facilities Leadership Council.                    |
| 12/94 | Sent letters to major commands with GIS maps and information on the Environmental Justice Executive Order. |

**Contact**

Jack Potosnak, (215) 597-2317

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**Region 4**

The Region 4 Federal Facilities Branch hired a Community Relations Coordinator (CRC) for DOD and BRAC installations. Region 4 CRC has reviewed three RAB charters and eight community relations plans to ensure that environmental justice issues are addressed. Region 4’s contribution has included daily ex-officio support to citizen boards, including significant use of technical staff, such as RPMs and program managers. EPA’s commitment in this area increases the opportunity for improvement in environmental justice areas. The CRC continues to review RAB charters and community relations plans. In addition, all major BRAC installations in the Region have established RABs or are in the process of completing RAB selection.

The Region 4 BRAC team provided training to communities on environmental issues affecting them. The training topics included the Superfund process, technology, and understanding acronyms.

### **Completed Milestones**

- 11/94      Hired CRC.
- 2/95      Completed BRAC team training.

### **Contacts**

Tiki Whitfield, (404) 347-3555, x2045

Michelle Glenn, (404) 347-5245

In addition to hiring a CRC, Region 4 also has hired two minority interns to work in the Federal Facilities Branch. One of the interns is providing environmental justice and other community relations support at DOE sites. The other intern is providing administrative and tracking support. In addition, Region 4 and DOE plan to jointly sponsor a minority intern to work on issues associated with the DOE Savannah River Site. The position was advertised in communities with people of color and in communities potentially impacted by the Savannah River Site.

### **Completed Milestones**

- 1/94      Initiated the intern program.
- 2/95      Advertised intern positions for Savannah River Site.

### **Contact**

Camilla Warren, (404) 347-3016

## **Region 5**

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EPA Region 5 is collecting demographic data and preparing GIS maps for five Federal facilities in the Region. These maps provide information on potential environmental justice issues at the facilities and are used by EPA RPMs, Federal facility RPMs, state RPMs, and facility commanders. Once the maps are completed, the Region will send them to the Federal facilities with a letter of explanation.

Region 5 also formed RABs at all 12 bases that are closing in the Region, making concerted efforts to recruit representatives from affected groups. The EPA RPMs assigned to the closing bases will have environmental justice training and will monitor all closure activities for environmental justice concerns.

### **Completed Milestones**

- 3/94      Formed RABs.
- 12/94     Initiated the collection of demographic data.

### **Contact**

Ken Tindall, (312) 886-9895

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## Region 6

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Region 6 is using GIS to identify installations with environmental justice concerns that have been designated for closure or realignment under the BRAC Act. The Region also has begun to develop an environmental justice community outreach program through the site RABs. RABs have been established at five bases in Region 6: Bergstrom Air Force Base, Eaker Air Force Base, England Air Force Base, Dallas Naval Air Station, and Fort Wingate.

Bergstrom Air Force Base is located on the southeastern boundary of the City of Austin, Texas. The percentage of minority population within the 50 square miles surrounding Bergstrom Air Force Base is considered to be above the state average.

Bergstrom Air Force Base solicited potential nominations for RAB members from the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, the Texas Attorney General's office, and the City of Austin. Letters inviting nominations for membership were issued to several hundred individuals in February 1994. The Region also announced formation of the RAB in the local newspaper.

The RAB was established for Bergstrom in May 1994, and contains several members of Hispanic or African-American heritage. The RAB conducts monthly meetings and, at the request of EPA, publicly announces RAB meetings in the local newspaper. The RAB also evaluated the need for translating some environmental materials into Spanish by contacting several Hispanic community leaders; from this evaluation, the RAB determined that this was not necessary. Region 6 continues to participate in RAB activities at this base.

Eaker Air Force Base is located in a predominantly agricultural area in Blytheville, Arkansas, and the analysis indicates that the percentage of minority population within the 50 square miles surrounding Eaker is above the state average. The higher minority population indicates that Eaker is a site at which there are environmental justice concerns. The Eaker Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board, established in July 1994, provides a forum to address the environmental justice concerns through monthly meetings. The base also has an active dialogue with the Quapaw Indians and the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer concerning historic Native American areas within the base.

The demographic analysis of the area in and around England Air Force Base in Alexandria, Louisiana, indicated that the percentage of minority population within the 50 square miles surrounding the base is below the state average. Formation of a RAB for the base was initiated by sending several hundred letters soliciting nomination of members. The RAB for the base was established in April 1994.

Several of the RAB members, including the Community Co-Chair, are part of the minority community from the surrounding Alexandria and Pineville areas. Notices of the quarterly meetings are published in the local paper and sent to all interested parties on the base mailing list. In addition, there has also been television, radio, and newspaper coverage of all meetings.

The 837-acre Dallas Naval Air Station is located 12 miles southwest of downtown Dallas, Texas. The percentage of minority population within the 50 square miles surrounding Dallas Naval Air Station is above the state average. Dallas Naval Air Station solicited nominations for the RAB through public notices and an extensive mailing

effort. A two-stage selection process was instituted to ensure diversity among the members. The members selected represent minority groups, small businesses, large businesses, academic communities, environmental activists, elected officials, neighborhood associations, and labor unions. The RAB was formally established in July 1994; meetings are ongoing (initially monthly; now bi-monthly).

Fort Wingate is located near Gallup, New Mexico, in a predominantly rural setting. The percentage of minority population within the 50 square miles surrounding Fort Wingate is above the state average.

The RAB was established for the Fort Wingate Depot Activity in August 1994; meetings are ongoing (monthly, or as appropriate). Fort Wingate is actively involved in negotiations with the Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding Native American participation in the reuse of this facility.

### **Completed Milestones**

2/94	Identified stakeholders and issue letters inviting nominations for members of the Bergstrom Air Force Base RAB.
4/94	Established the England Air Force Base RAB.
5/94	Established RAB at Bergstrom Air Force Base.
6/94	Completed GIS and identified demographics.
7/94	Established the Eaker Air Force Base RAB.
7/94	Established the Dallas Naval Air Station RAB.
8/94	Establish Fort Wingate RAB.
9/94	Identified RAB stakeholders at Eaker Air Force Base.

### **Contacts**

Michael Overbay, (214) 665-6482 (Bergstrom Air Force Base)

Henry Onsgard, (214) 665-2221 (Eaker Air Force Base)

Camille Hueni, (214) 665-2231 (England Air Force Base)

Sing Chia, (214) 665-8301 (Dallas Naval Air Station and Fort Wingate)

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## **Region 7**

Region 7 currently is establishing Community Advisory Groups (CAGs) involving a wide range of stakeholders at several Federal facility or Federal-lead projects. These facilities include two DOE projects, the Weldon Spring Quarry and the St. Louis Airport sites, and the Hastings Ground Water Contamination site. The Region participated in the joint EPA/DOD RAB Workshops designed to assist installations and regulatory agencies in implementing enhanced community involvement at DOD facilities.

The Regional Environmental Justice Task Force members currently are gathering information from Federal facility site managers to identify sites with potential environmental justice concerns. The indication so far is that environmental justice issues are not associated with most Superfund Federal sites and base closure sites in the Region.

The notable exception is DOE's Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) sites located within the urban core of the St. Louis metropolitan area.

An EPA/DOE joint community outreach effort has resulted in the establishment of a CAG to make decisions on the St. Louis FUSRAP sites. Participating stakeholders include several members of the area's congressional delegation, state and local officials, community activists, and business and property owners. At the Weldon Spring Quarry site, the selection board for the CAG completed the selection process and announced its members during the week of January 23, 1995.

### **Completed Milestones**

- 5/94        Participated in RAB workshops.
- 9/94        Selected candidate sites for priority treatment/CAG formation.
- 9/94        Established a CAG at the St. Louis FUSRAP site.
- 1/95        Established a CAG at the Weldon Springs site.

### **Contact**

Dan Wall, (913) 551-7710

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## **Region 8**

Region 8 is working closely with two minority communities near the Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA). Montbello, located on the southern edge of RMA, has a sizable percentage of African-American residents. Commerce City, located on the western edge of RMA, has a sizable percentage of Hispanic residents.

EPA Region 8 made numerous contacts with the Montbello community and worked closely with local community leaders on these efforts to identify ways to more effectively involve the community. EPA also worked with the community's Colorado State legislature representative, a City Councilwoman, her aide, and two staff from the Denver Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) on the complicated issues surrounding the remedy selection process and ways to communicate these issues with the community.

In response to other community concerns, EPA has initiated a soil sampling program specifically for Montbello. The effort is being made in cooperation with DHH, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). Sampling plans and results will be shared with the community. EPA asked community leaders to sponsor a March 11 meeting to explain that effort. Past CDPHE and ATSDR health studies and the ATSDR Health Assessment also were described at the meeting.

Both Montbello and Commerce City have representation on the two citizen advisory boards that exist for RMA. Through the citizen advisory boards and through a special Regional Administrator-level set of meetings with stakeholders, EPA has encouraged local involvement in the remediation decision-making.

In addition, last fall EPA and CDPHE began distribution of a new newsletter on the RMA remediation to ensure that a broader perspective is available to the environmental justice communities.

### **Completed Milestones**

- 9/94-4/95 Held several meetings with community leaders from all the affected communities to express concerns to the Regional Administrator.
- 10/94 Began distribution of newsletter on RMA remediation.

### **Contact**

Connally Mears, (303) 293-1528

To assist another Region 8 community, EPA worked with the Air Force at the F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming, to provide an alternate water supply to the Nob Hill community adjacent to F.E. Warren Air Force Base. The Nob Hill community is a low-income Hispanic community. The residents' drinking water supply is downgradient from a trichloroethylene plume that originates from a landfill located at F.E. Warren Air Force Base. The residents' drinking water supply is contaminated with a variety of volatile organic compounds. The residents currently are receiving bottled water while the Air Force works with the City of Cheyenne and Space Command to "hook-up" the residential community to the city water supply. Region 8 continues to work with the Air Force at F.E. Warren to get Nob Hill residents an acceptable water supply other than bottled water.

### **Completed Milestones**

- 4/94 Received feasibility study report to provide city water line to Nob Hill.
- 12/94 Established the F.E. Warren Air Force Base RAB.

### **Contact**

Art Palomares, (303) 391-6130

In other efforts, Region 8 played a lead role in assuring that the concerns of Native Americans were addressed at the DOE site, Monticello Tailings and Vicinity Properties, in Monticello, Utah. In a proposed change in the 1990 Record of Decision, DOE had to decide whether to move radioactive mill tailings to an off-site location at the White Mesa Mill area located south of Blanding, Utah, or to an on-site location away from a floodplain. Moving the tailings to the off-site location at White Mesa Mill would mean transporting the tailings 27 miles.

The community around the Monticello Sites, the Native American population of San Juan County living in the proximity of the White Mesa Mill, and the residents and business establishments adjacent to the corridor of the proposed truck haul route expressed strong opposition to the off-site alternative. The SSAB meetings, established in October 1994 with EPA's guidance as a member of the SSAB, notified DOE of environmental justice issues regarding the decision and the need to actively involve the Native Americans on the SSAB. To help address these issues, DOE hired an independent facilitator to work with the community and the SSAB. On December 22, 1994, DOE announced its decision to proceed with the on-site alternative due to strong community support for the option. The support centered in part on potential impacts to historic and sacred grounds and, to a greater extent, on the highway safety issue.

### Completed Milestones

12/94 Native Americans accept the DOE decision to keep radioactive mill tailings on-site.

### Contacts

J. Mario Robles, (303) 294-1972

Paul S. Mushovic, (303) 294-1983

## Region 9

The activities directed at addressing environmental justice concerns in the closing and realignment of bases in Region 9 have varied, depending on the needs of the locality. RABs have been established at all closing bases to broaden representation of community members with diverse interests, including those with environmental justice concerns. During the establishment of the RAB for Castle Air Force Base in California, Region 9 strongly encouraged base officials to involve the largely Hispanic community. While efforts have been made, Hispanic community interest has been limited, and the RAB currently does not have membership drawn from this community.

At the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard in California, the primary concern of the environmental justice community is the need to create job opportunities, either as part of the environmental investigation and cleanup or via leases that bring new businesses to the community. To this end, EPA has actively worked with the Navy on several leases. EPA worked collaboratively with the Navy on the environmental baseline survey (EBS) and finding of suitability to lease (FOSL) (documents developed to support leasing of specific parcels) and James Richards of Aboriginal Blackman Unlimited, a local African-American business that provides job training for local residents. EPA wrote the EBS and FOSL for a specific lease to 20th Century Fox for film production. EPA also facilitated resolution of issues allowing the lease of Dry Dock #4, the largest dry dock on the west coast, which has already resulted in employment of 20 local residents of this predominantly African-American community, and promises many more jobs to come.

Region 9 held several meetings during fiscal year 1994 with high-level local officials of the Navy to recommend improvements to the Navy's Superfund community involvement efforts to promote meaningful dialogue with the Hunters Point environmental justice community. EPA interviewed with Navy managers in their search for a community relations specialist to be assigned to the Hunters Point community. EPA also met several times with community leaders to discuss ways to improve community involvement in the Bayview/Hunters Point community and concerns about environmental justice. Region 9 plans to issue an environmental justice grant in fiscal year 1995. Request for applications are expected to be issued in the spring of 1995, with the grant being issued by the end of fiscal year 1995. The maximum amount to made available will be \$50,000.

### Completed Milestones

7/94 EPA wrote EBS and FOSL for 20th Century Fox.

7/94 Collaborated and concurred on EBS and FOSL for James Richards.

- 7/94 EPA concurred on EBS and FOSL for Dry Dock #4.
- 8/94 Held meeting with the leaders of the Bayview/Hunters Point community regarding environmental justice issues.
- 3/94-12/94 Held meetings with representatives of the Navy regarding environmental justice issues at Hunters Point.

**Contact**

Jane Diamond, (415) 744-2384

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**Region 10**

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Region 10 reported on the status of activities at its two BRAC installations. One of these bases, Sandpoint Naval Station, has an extensive RAB associated with it. Umatilla Army Depot is a realigning base. Its mission of conventional weapons storage is being transferred to another installation. The Depot has established a RAB through which it solicits community input on the remedial actions that are underway. EPA and DOD ensure that environmental justice issues are discussed with these advisory boards.

**Completed Milestones**

- 2/94 Established a RAB at Sandpoint Naval Station.

**Contact**

Christine Psyk, (206) 553-1748

**Action Item**

*Educate minority populations on the environmental decision-making process as related to cleanup of large Federal facilities.*

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**Region 4**

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Region 4 currently is planning information sessions to be held in communities with people of color to explain environmental decision-making as it relates to the cleanup of large Federal facilities. Among the topics to be included in these sessions is information on environmental exposure through subsistence and recreational fishing and hunting, and through recreation. In addition, Region 4 has been working with a minority representative to improve communication between minority communities and EPA. Region 4 has begun to review existing charters and community relations plans to ensure that they address environmental justice issues. The Region will continue to provide environmental justice support to other Federal and state agencies.

**Contacts**

Tiki Whitfield, (404) 347-5245

Camilla Warren, (404) 347-3016



## Action Item

*Encourage Native American and Native Hawaiian stakeholder involvement.*

## Region 2

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The base closure redevelopment process provides an opportunity to address environmental justice concerns by soliciting input regarding future use of the property from populations affected by the closure. In Region 2, two Native American tribes have shown limited interest in property at two closing bases. The Oneida Tribe has expressed early interest in firing ranges at Griffiss Air Force Base, but thereafter expressed no interest. At Plattsburgh Air Force Base, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe submitted a draft reuse plan that appears to conflict with the plan being developed by the local reuse organization. The Tribes have been invited to participate on RABs but have not yet applied for membership.

### Completed Milestones

10/94      Reuse plan submitted by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe.

### Contact

Robert Wing, (212) 637-4332

## Region 9

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Williams Air Force Base in Region 9 solicited membership for the RAB from the nearby Gila River Indian Community. While members of the tribe have chosen not to participate directly in the RAB, the Air Force has designated a staff member specifically tasked to keep the Tribe informed of the progress of cleanup and transfer of this closing base. The Tribe has identified areas on the base that have special cultural significance, based on archeological investigations at the Midvale Archeological site in 1984, and has indicated an interest in obtaining base property.

### Completed Milestones

9/94      Invited Gila River Indian community participation in Williams Air Force Base RAB.

### Contact

Greg Baker, (415) 744-1491

EPA Region 9 has been in contact with Dr. Jim Anthony, who represents the Hawaii Lai'ieikawai Association (HLA). The HLA is an umbrella organization that funds and supports various environmental organizations in Hawaii. Dr. Anthony has indicated that his organization's interest in the Pearl Harbor Complex is not only environmental, but is rooted in the Native Hawaiian sovereignty movement. Native Hawaiians have made claims to parcels of land that are of interest to them, including land currently owned by the Navy. The Navy has not been very successful in encouraging local community members to participate on the RAB; Dr. Anthony feels that his group may be able to assist the Navy in getting the Native Hawaiians to participate in the Pearl

Harbor RAB. Region 9 is also continuing to work with prospective TAG applicants towards the issuance of a TAG.

### **Completed Milestones**

10/94      Established Pearl Harbor RAB.

1/95      Contacted Dr. Anthony.

### **Contact**

Richard Seradarian, (415) 744-2211

In addition, Region 9 is monitoring activities underway to cleanup the Kaho'olawe Island in Hawaii. The island was formerly used by the DOD as a bombing range and was recently returned to State of Hawaii ownership. While legislation authorized \$400 million to cleanup the island (which contains unexploded ordnance), little has been appropriated for this effort to date. The island has tremendous cultural significance to the Native Hawaiian population. To ensure Hawaiians' interests are protected during cleanup of the island, Hawaii designated the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission as the state's agent in developing with the Navy a voluntary framework describing how the cleanup will proceed. EPA is monitoring the development of this framework to ensure that key principles of EPA regulations are addressed—most specifically, the stakeholder involvement components. EPA has met with the Navy and Hawaii to discuss the development of the cleanup framework, and has initiated contact with Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana, a Native Hawaiian advocacy group in January 1995. In addition, EPA has discussed the issue with the Western Governor's Association, which may also participate in the development of the regulatory framework.

### **Completed Milestones**

11/94      Held meeting with the Navy and Hawaii representatives to discuss cleanup.

1/95      Contacted Native Hawaiian advocacy group.

1/95      Held discussions with Western Governors Association.

3/95      Held meeting with the Navy and Hawaii representatives to discuss cleanup.

### **Contact**

Julie Anderson, (415) 744-2420

## **Region 10**

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Region 10 reported that involving the tribes in the cleanup decision-making and oversight at the DOE's Hanford site is an ongoing effort under EPA's trust obligations. Special efforts have been made to be responsive to tribal input and the input has shaped the cleanup program at Hanford. The EPA Federal Facilities Branch Hanford Project Office produces a newsletter, issues fact sheets, provides a 1-800 phone line, supports a Hanford Advisory Board (stakeholder/citizen/tribal representation), issues press releases, and works with DOE on four information repositories.

During the summer of 1994, the EPA Regional Administrator met with the three affected tribes: the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, the Confederated

Tribes and Bands of the Yakima Indian Nation, and the Nez Perce Tribe. The Region 10 Hanford Project Office has established an ongoing dialogue with the three tribes and continues to involve the tribes in cleanup decisions at the Hanford facility. Region 10 currently is working to modify the cleanup agreements and records of decisions.

**Completed Milestones**

6/94-8/94 Met with representatives on affected tribes.

**Contact**

Larry Gadbois, (509) 376-9884

